

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 EURE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9601

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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USCINCEUR

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USDOCOSOUTH

CINCUSAFE

USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: GREEK NAVAL EXERCISES ANNOUNCED

REF: ATHENS 2518

1. IN CONNECTION WITH THE TURKISH MILITARY EXERCISES SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE AEGEAN MARCH 21-28, THERE WAS PRESS SPECULATION HERE LAST WEEK THAT THE GOG MIGHT SCHEDULE PARALLEL MILITARY EXERCISES DURING THE SAME PERIOD. THE GOG HAS NOW CONFIRMED THAT THE GREEK NAVY WILL CONDUCT A SERIES OF THREE SUCCESSIVE EXERCISES BEGINNING MARCH 21 BUT ENDING MARCH 24. THESE EXERCISES WILL NOT TAKE PLACE IN THE AEGEAN,
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HOWEVER, BUT IN THE SARONIC GULF AND THE MYRTOAN SEA (OFF THE EAST COAST OF THE PELOPONNESUS AND WEST OF THE CYCLADES ISLANDS). ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE GREEK NAVY SQUADRONS TAKING PART IN THE EXERCISES WILL EACH BE COMPOSED OF 4-5 DESTROYERS, 2 SUBMARINES, MISSILE BOATS AND OTHER UNITS. AIR UNITS WILL APPARENTLY ALSO PARTICIPATE.

2. THE EXERCISES ARE SAID TO BE PART OF THE SCHEDULE OF REGULAR MANEUVERS DRAWN UP AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR. COMMENTING ON THESE GREEK EXERCISES, A GOVERNMENT SOURCE SAID THE FOLLOWING LAST NIGHT, ACCORDING TO THE SEMI-OFFICIAL ATHENS NEWS AGENCY; "IT IS A ROUTINE EXERCISE OF THE NAVY TO WHICH NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE SHOULD BE ATTACHED BECAUSE IT IS A PART OF GENERAL MANEUVERS PLANNED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR, REGARDLESS OF THE FACT THAT IT HAPPENS TO COINCIDE WITH TURKISH AIR AND SEA EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN."

3. COMMENT: THE MONDAY AFTERNOON PRESS (THERE ARE NO MORNING PAPERS TODAY) TREATS THE TURKISH EXERCISE QUESTION CALMLY AND WITHOUT ALARM. ALUSNA HAS JUST RETURNED FROM THE HELLENIC NAVY COMMAND WHERE HE RECEIVED CONFIRMATION OF THE GREEK NAVAL EXERCISES ALONG THE ABOVE LINES.

KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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